(c) and (d) In order to improve the drainage, parking etc., a works of improvements to circulating area at a cost of Rs. 13.00 lakhs has been taken up. A separate garbage dumping ground has been provided near circulating area, as such there is no problem of garbage in the circulating area of Buxar station.

Prices of steel

†1948. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consumer selling price of steel in the country decreases and increases in conformity with the prices in international market;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and average annual percentage of the steel exported out of the steel produced in the country; and

(c) the reasons for not fixing prices on the basis of production cost in this industry and fixing the selling price in accordance with the international market overlooking the demand and supply of domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The domestic market prices of steel generally move in tandem with international prices. Following deregulation of prices in 1991-92, the domestic prices of steel have become market determined. During 2004-05 and April-November, 2005 about 10% of the domestic produciton of steel has been exported.

(c) In a deregulated environment, steel prices are market determined. The Government does not intervene in the market to influence prices.

Cancellation of merger of chiria mines

1949. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government are aware of cancellation of three iron ore lease of Chiria Mines of IISCO, which is now merged with SAIL, by Government of Jharkhand;

(b) whether any assessment has been made on the impact of cancellation on iron ore availability to SAIL and RINL; and

(c) the action taken by Government , apart from SAIL and IISCO, as owner to protect iron ore assets of public sector steel manufactures?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) SAIL has assessed its iron ore requirement for its projected production under their Corporate Plan 2011-12, which would be difficult to fulfill in case iron ore is not available from Chiria Mines.

(c) The matter has been taken up with Government of Jharkhand to consider the renewal of mining leases for Chiria Iron Ore Mines.

Dependence of imported coke

1950. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state: whether it is a fact that in coming years, our dependability on imported coke will be 85 per cent of the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Major portion of coke requirement of the steel sector is met through import of coking coal whis is then converted to coke. As envisaged in the National Steel Policy the Indian steel sector would require about 70 million tonnes of cooking coal in 2019-2020, out of which about 85 would have to be imported.

Decline in ship breaking industry

1951. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ship breaking industry is passing through an alarming phase and if this trend continues, it would soon find itself on the verge of extinction;